

Public Health Office,  
32, South Street,  
BRIDPORT.

September, 1950.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
TO THE BEAMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR  
THE YEAR 1949, INCLUDING STATISTICS FOR THE  
PERIOD 1939 - 1949.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health..... Adam Armit, M.B. Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor..... G.C. Rundle, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.  
Clerk to the Medical Officer..... Miss J. Gurd.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres .. .. .	58,693.
Registrar General's estimate of population ..	8,025.
No. of inhabited houses (according to the Rate Books as at the end of 1949).	2,515.
Rateable Value .. .. .	£38,029.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate .. .. .	£158.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
All Births.	78.	67.	
Legitimate.	76.	65.	Birth Rate per 1,000 resident
Illegitimate.	2.	2.	population - 18.1.

Total Births - 145.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
All Still Births.	2.	1.	
Legitimate.	2.	1.	Still Birth Rate per 1,000
Illegitimate.	-	-	resident population - 0.37.

Total Still Births - 3.

Deaths of Infants under One year of Age.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
Total.	4.	-	
Legitimate.	3.	-	Death Rate all Infants per 1,000
Illegitimate.	1.	-	notified Births - 27.6.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes..... Nil.

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births..... Nil.

Deaths at all Ages and from all Causes.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
Total Deaths - 84.	51.	33.	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated
			resident population - 10.5. Crude
			8.5. Corrected.
			Comparability Factor - 0.81.





OTHER VITAL STATISTICS.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Population.....	7624	7939	8351	8293	8038	7646	7519	7682	7775	8002	8025
Rateable Value.....	£30572	£30762	£35769	£36070	£37312	£37443	£37851	£37851	£38246	£37929	£38029
Estimated Produce of Penny Rate.....	£133	£135	£159	£155	£158	£167	£159	£160	£160	£158	£158
<u>BIRTHS:-</u>											
Live Births.....	114	114	137	123	124	146	122	127	139	139	145
Legitimate.....	108	110	128	114	118	134	105	120	126	133	141
Illegitimate.....	6	4	9	9	6	12	17	7	13	6	4
Still Births.....	3	5	5	5	7	1	3	5	2	3	3
Live Birth Rate.....	15.4	14.4	16.1	14.8	15.4	19.1	16.2	16.5	17.9	17.4	18.1
Live Birth Rate (Eng. & Wales).....	15.0	14.6	14.2	15.8	16.5	17.6	16.1	19.1	20.5	17.9	16.7
<u>DEATHS:-</u>											
Total Deaths.....	110	137	106	87	101	122	88	96	105	85	84
Death Rate (Crude).....	11.7	14.3	12.4	10.5	12.6	15.8	11.7	12.5	13.5	10.6	10.5
Death Rate (Corrected).....											8.5
Death Rate (Eng. & Wales).....	12.1	14.3	12.9	11.6	12.1	11.6	11.4	11.5	12.0	10.8	11.7
<u>INFANT MORTALITY:-</u>											
Deaths under 1 year.....	3	8	13	2	4	7	4	6	7	4	4
Infantile Death Rate.....	26.3	66.7	90.3	14.5	32.3	47.9	32.8	47.3	50.4	28.8	27.6
Infantile Death Rate (Eng. & Wales)...	50	55	59	49	49	46	46	43	41	34	32
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY:-</u>											
Maternal Deaths.....	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Maternal Mortality Rate (Eng. & Wales)...	-	-	6.71	-	-	-	-	7.57	-	-	-
Maternal Mortality Rate (Eng. & Wales)...	2.82	2.16	2.23	2.01	2.29	1.93	1.79	1.43	1.17	1.02	0.98



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Corscombe and Halstock Scheme.

Nearly a year was taken in investigating various problems in connection with the above scheme, and because of difficulties especially in regard to the rights of the free users of the present Corscombe piped supply, a deputation from the Council visited the Ministry of Health in June. As a result, the Council was advised that in view of the difficulties in connection with the free supplies and in obtaining the consents of the riparian owners, to invoke the provisions of the Water Acts of 1945 and 1948 for the compulsory acquisition of the water rights and the land required together with the construction of the necessary works. The Council resolved to apply to the Ministry of Health for the necessary Order, and it was reported that a Local Enquiry would be held early in 1950 concerning the application for the issue of an Order.

Netherbury Scheme.

Work was commenced in September to take the main from the Beaminster supply at Parnham to Netherbury.

Toller Whelme Borehole.

In May, a Local Enquiry into the Toller Whelme Borehole Scheme was held, and in October an 8" borehole was commenced. By December the borehole had been sunk to a depth of 180 feet, and after a five days continuous pumping test, a yield of 2,250 gallons per hour was obtained. The Consulting Engineers concluded that nothing approaching a pumping rate of about 30,000 g.p.h., which is what would be required for the Regional scheme, could be obtained by the development of this site, and it would be necessary therefore to revert to the original proposal to take water from the Hooke source.

Thorncombe.

The water supply system in the village was transferred to the Council. An electric pump was installed replacing the ram.

Broadwindsor.

In December, the Broadwindsor Water Supply Committee informed the Council that 40% of owners and approximately 80% of tenants of 101 properties in the village wanted a piped water supply and were willing to have it connected to their properties, and asked the Council to take immediate action in the matter.

Water Samples.

53 samples were taken for analyses, with the following results:-

	Mains.	Springs.	Wells.	Boreholes.
Satisfactory.	11.	4.	7.	1.
Unsatisfactory.	1.	8.	8.	1.
Suspicious.	1.	6.	3.	2.

## Sewerage.

- 5 -

No major change has taken place in sewerage during the year. The rivers and streams still act as the sewers of the district, with the result that all these water courses are polluted, especially so at Beaminster, where the river Brit takes the effluents from a Milk Factory, a Gas Works, a Process Engravers and Printers Works, and all domestic sewage from the town. The Council's Consultant Engineers have been instructed to put forward definite proposals with estimates for Sewerage and Sewage Disposal for Beaminster and Netherbury.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

All household refuse and salvage is collected weekly from Beaminster parish. In the remaining parishes, indestructible household refuse and salvage is collected monthly, the work being carried out with a 2/3 ton 28 H.P. lorry owned by the Council, who employ two men for the purpose. The refuse is tipped on to the Council's dump about a mile north of Beaminster town. This dump is kept in a satisfactory condition.

## Rodent Control.

The County Council act as agents for the District Council for the area over which the District Council is responsible.

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

No. of Inspections.....	1028.	(Including all Inspections).	
No. of Informal Notices.....	62.	No. complied with.....	51.
No. of Statutory Notices.....	15.	No. complied with.....	13.

## Allocation of Inspections.

Factories.....	4.	Foodstuffs.....	13.
Drains.....	165.	Housing.....	69.
Milk and Dairies.....	25.	Infectious Disease.....	12.
Refuse and Salvage.....	27.	Nuisances - General.....	27.
Building Bye-laws, Planning &		Petrol Storage.....	2.
Civil Building Control.....	529.	Slaughter Houses and	
Water Supplies.....	148.	Knackers Yards.....	7.

## Petroleum, Spirit and Carbide.

No. of Licences.....			26.
No. of Notices served.....	Nil.	No. of Inspections.....	2.

## Verminous Premises.

1 House was dealt with during the year.

## School Premises.

The 18 Schools in the area have been inspected regularly. Most of the buildings are very old and are out of date, 6 Schools have their water supply from Wells, 9 have piped supplies, and 3 have no water on the premises. As regards lavatory accommodation, 4 have water closets, and 14 have bucket or vault closets. Tuberculin Tested milk is supplied to 16 Schools, Accredited milk to 1, and Pasteurised milk to 1.



INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply

Cow Sheds and Dairies.

No. of Persons on the Register at end of September 1949.....	485.
No. of Dairy Farms and other Dairy premises on Register.....	484.
No. of Dairies (not Dairy Farms) on Register at 31.12.49.....	1.
No. of Distributors of Milk on Register at 31.12.49.....	1.
No. of Dairy Farms Inspected.....	18.
No. of Inspections.....	25.
No. of Notices served..... Nil. No. Complied with.....	Nil.
No. of Milk Shops inspected..... Nil. No. of Inspections.....	Nil.
No. of Notices..... Nil. No. Complied with.....	Nil.

No milk samples were taken for analysis.

The Food & Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act 1944 came into operation on the 1st October, 1949. Under this Act, all persons carrying on the trade of Dairy Farmer, and all Dairy Farms have to be registered with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and every Local Authority shall keep a register of all persons carrying on the trade of distributor in their district, and of all premises which are used as Dairies not being Dairy Farms.

Data received from the County Council show that on 30th September, 1949, of 484 Dairy Farms in the district, 90 are on the Tuberculin Tested Register, 46 are on the Accredited Register, while 348 are producing Ungraded milk.

There are no Pasteurising Plants in the district. The Milk Factory in Beaminster town manufactures dried milk powder, and despatches by tanker liquid milk for sale by wholesale, and also supplies a small amount to retailers in the district.

Ice Cream.

No. of persons on the Register at the end of 1949 for the:-	
(a) Manufacture of Ice Cream.....	1.
(b) Storage and sale of Ice Cream.....	7.
No. of Ice Cream premises inspected during 1949.....	3.
No. of Inspections of Ice Cream premises.....	3.
No. of Notices (I.C.H.T.R.) served.....	Nil.

Meat Inspection.

All the Slaughtering for West Dorset takes place at a Slaughter House in the Bridport Rural District. A Veterinary Surgeon, appointed by the Bridport Rural District Council is responsible for the inspection of carcasses on every day that Slaughtering takes place. No report has been received from the Veterinary Surgeon regarding the condemnation of meat at the Slaughter House during the year.

Knackers Yard.

This is situated about 3 miles N.W. of Beaminster town.

Condemnation of Food.

The following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

Various Foodstuffs.....	19 tins.	Margarine.....	28 lbs.
Fish.....	112 lbs.	Cheese.....	6 lbs.

HOUSING.

No. of Dwelling Houses Inspected.....	38.
No. of Inspections.....	69.
No. unfit for human habitation.....	8.
No. not <b>reasonably fit</b> .....	10.
No. rendered fit after Informal action by Local Authority.....	Nil.

Action under Statutory Powers. Housing Act 1936. Sections 9, 10, & 16.

No. of Houses in respect of which Formal Notices served.....	Nil.
No. of Houses rendered fit after Formal Notice.....	Nil.
(1) By Owner.....	Nil.
(2) By Local Authority... Nil.	

Public Health Acts.

No. of Notices served:- Informal 11. Formal 2. Total.....	13.
No. of Houses in which defects were remedied:-	
(a) By Owners:- Informal 7. Formal Nil. Total.....	7.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owner.....	Nil.

Housing Act 1936. Sections 11. & 12.

No. of Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..	Nil.
No. of Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....	Nil.
No. of Closing Orders.....	Nil.

Re-Housing.

No. of additional units of accommodation provided by conversions and adaptations.....	8.
No. of families re-housed.....	8.
No. of persons re-housed (approx).....	24.
No. of New Houses completed:-	
(a) By Local Authority.....	28.
(b) By Other Bodies.....	12.
No. of families in New Houses.....	40.
No. of persons in New Houses (approx).....	120.
No. of New Houses completed since the War:-	
(a) By Local Authority.....	54.
(b) By Other Bodies.....	32.
No. of New Houses in course of construction at 31.12.49:-	
(a) By Local Authority.....	36.
(b) By Other Bodies.....	12.
No. of Houses owned by Local Authority.....	140.
Approximate No. of working class houses in the district.....	2220.



INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was one case of Diphtheria notified, the first in seven years. The patient was a man of 24 years who had never been immunised. 9 cases of Poliomyelitis were notified, from the following parishes - Evershot 4 cases, Corscombe 2 cases, Wraxall 1 case, Broadwindsor 1 case, and Blackdown 1 case. There were 4 deaths from the disease.

11 cases were notified of Sonne Dysentery and these were all children attending a private school where other cases were occurring at the same time. Investigations led to the tracing of a carrier in the kitchen staff.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children who have completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1949, are as follows:-

Children under 5 years of age at 31.12.49.

Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	Total.
7.	75.	127.	90.	73.	372.
<u>Children 5 - 15 years of age at 31.12.49.</u>					
5 - 9 years.		10 - 14 years.			Total.
544.		489.			1033.

Total number of children under 15 years, immunised. 1405.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1919.

DISEASE.	Total Cases at all ages.	Under 1 Year.											65 & Over	Total Deaths among notified cases	Total Cases removed to Hosp in Dist.	Deaths in Hosp of persons. belonging to Dist.
		1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65				
Diphtheria.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Erysipelas.....	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.....	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Puerperal Pyrexia...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	8	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	8	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery (B. Sonne).	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polio Encephalitis...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.....	7	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Pulmonary.....	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.....	25	1	3	4	-	5	7	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	40	6	-	8	4	5	16	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:	108	8	4	13	5	10	27	17	2	14	4	2	2	4	15	4

From the Schools were notified - 6 Whooping Cough, 4 Impetigo, 3 Conjunctivitis, 3 Scabies, 11 Mumps, 18 Influenza,  
1 Poliomyelitis, 12 Chicken Pox, 2 Ringworm.

C - Cases. D - Deaths,

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1939 - 1949.

DISEASES.	1939 C. D.	1940 C. D.	1941 C. D.	1942 C. D.	1943 C. D.	1944 C. D.	1945 C. D.	1946 C. D.	1947 C. D.	1948 C. D.	1949 C. D.
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Smallpox.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria.....	2	3	1	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas.....	5	4	1	1	5	7	6	1	5	4	2
Scarlet Fever.....	6	4	8	16	1	28	2	5	11	4	5
Enteric Fever (inc Typhoid).....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	-	2	4	-	-	3	1	-	1	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....	-	5	1	-	-	-	3	3	1	2	1
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	8
Polio Encephalitis.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Opthalmia Neonatorum.....	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Dysentery.....	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	1	11
Encephalitis Letargica.....	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.....	3	8	1	2	9	2	4	1	2	2	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	3	2	7	3	11	2	5	3	9	3	4
Non-Pulmonary "	1	2	2	1	1	3	1	4	1	3	1
Measles.....	1	60	277	3	32	36	9	213	11	21	42
Whooping Cough.....	Not Known.	12	60	1	1	31	68	2	9	35	19

TOTALS:	21	2	108	6	370	7	72	4	120	3	107	7	250	3	79	6	72	11	78	6	108	4
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TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases notified during 1949.				Deaths during 1949.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
0- 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
35-45	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
45-55	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over.-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:-	3	2	1	1	1	-	1	-

Particulars of Deaths:-

Pulmonary Male. - 45 years. Occupation not known.  
Duration of Disease - 1 year.

Non-Pulmonary Male - 26 years. Occupation None.  
Duration of Disease - 12 years.

New Cases and Mortality 1939 - 1949.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
1939.	1	2	1	1	2	-	-	-
1940.	4	4	2	-	2	1	-	-
1941.	1	3	1	-	1	1	-	1
1942.	6	5	1	1	1	2	-	-
1943.	5	4	1	2	1	-	1	-
1944.	4	2	2	2	1	-	-	1
1945.	5	4	3	-	3	-	-	-
1946.	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	-
1947.	1	3	2	1	2	4	1	-
1948.	2	2	1	-	-	1	-	-
1949.	3	2	1	1	1	-	1	-
Total Cases on Register at end of 1948..	14	8					9	6
New Cases notified during 1949.....	3	2					1	1
Cases from other areas now living in the District.....	3	1					-	-
Deaths during 1949.....	1	-					1	-
Removals from District into other Areas.	6	3					-	1
Removed from Register-Cured.....	-	2					1	3
Total on Register at end of 1949.....	13	6					8	3



